

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/687,639

Examiner

Joseph L. Perrin, Ph.D.

Applicant(s)

PARK ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 02 April 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-8 and 10-15.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT & STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Election/Restrictions

1. In view of the instant Examiner's Amendment, claim 1 is generic and allowable.

Accordingly, the restriction requirement as to the encompassed species is hereby withdrawn and claims 2-5 which are directed to species no longer withdrawn from consideration since all of the claims to this species depend from or otherwise include each of the limitations of an allowed generic claim.

2. In view of the above noted withdrawal of the restriction requirement as to the linked species, applicant(s) are advised that if any claim(s) depending from or including all the limitations of the allowable generic linking claim(s) be presented in a continuation or divisional application, such claims may be subject to provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application.

Once a restriction requirement is withdrawn, the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 121 are no longer applicable. See *In re Ziegler*, 44 F.2d 1211, 1215, 170 USPQ 129, 131-32 (CCPA 1971). See also MPEP § 804.01.

Examiner's Amendment

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
4. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. William E. Lyddane on 10 May 2007.
5. The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1:

1. (Currently Amended) A condensing apparatus of a washing and drying machine comprising: a casing that forms an accommodating space therein; a tub installed in the casing; an air duct having one end connected to the tub to thus introduce air into the tub; a blower fan that blows air along the air duct; and a heater that heats air of the air duct before being introduced into the tub,

wherein the condensing apparatus further comprises:

a condensing duct having one end connected to a lower region of the tub and another end extending upwardly;

a condensate water supplying duct connected to an upper region of the condensing duct to supply condensate water into the condensing duct;

a condensate water dispersing portion provided with a plurality of dispersion holes formed along a circumferential direction of the condensing duct at spaced

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intervals and arranged at an outlet side of the condensate water supplying duct along a flow direction of the condensate water, to dispersedly drop condensate water supplied from the condensing water supplying duct; and

a chamber having an expanded flow section area that is greater than that of the condensing duct, having ~~one side~~ a lower end connected to the condensing duct and ~~another side~~ an upper end connected to an inlet of the blower fan, and provided with a condensate water supplying opening to which the condensate water supplying duct is coupled at one side thereof,

wherein the lower end of the chamber is below an upper end of the condensate water dispersing portion.

Claim 6:

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the condensing duct has a sectional surface of a circular shape, ~~is connected to the chamber at one end thereof~~ and extends downwardly from a portion where the condensing duct and the chamber are connected to each other with a predetermined length.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 1-8 & 10-15 are allowed.

7. The following is a statement of reasons for allowance: The closest prior art of record, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0103697 to KIM et al., fails to teach each and every limitation of the instant invention. Specifically, KIM discloses a condensing apparatus for a washing and drying machine with a condensing duct, condensate water supplying duct, condensate water dispersing portion, and a chamber having an expanded flow section area. However, KIM fails to teach the claimed configuration with the condensate water dispersing portion with a plurality of dispersion holes formed along the circumferential direction of the condensing duct and the expanded flow section chamber having a lower end connected to the condensing duct such that the lower end of the chamber is below an upper end of the condensate water dispersing portion, which is disclosed as an essential element of claimed invention, as described in claim 1.

8. Further, KIM and the prior art of record, apparently fail to provide the requisite motivation for making the instantly claimed configuration and combination without using impermissible hindsight. For at least the foregoing reasons, claims 1-8 & 10-15 are believed to recite patentable subject matter.

9. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

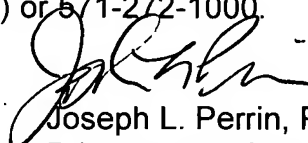
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accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph L. Perrin, Ph.D. whose telephone number is (571)272-1305. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:00-4:30, except alternate Fridays.

11. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael E. Barr can be reached on (571)272-1414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

12. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Joseph L. Perrin, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
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JLP